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different genera are *exactly* alike in outward appearance, we cannot escape the conclusion that, in fact as in appearance, we have only *one* species. In every case of reputed *Acerates auriculata* crests have been found. The wings of the anthers too have been found to be, if not "decidedly auriculate," at least "dilated," certainly not "tapering at base." All of which characters bring these specimens under *Asclepias*, § NOTHACERATES, provided we allow the following modification of this subgenus.

§ 3. NOTHACERATES. *Anther wings more or less widening to the rounded base, which may or may not be notched or auricled; hood sessile, its apex emarginate or more deeply notched, with a narrow, wholly adnate, internal crest which may terminate above the middle of the hood without a horn, or may be more or less prolonged into a proper horn.*

The projection of this horn above the base of the hood-sinus gives the tridentate appearance mentioned in both the description of *Acerates angustifolia* Decaisne, and that of *A. auriculata* Engelm. I quote, the first from DC. Prodr. VIII, 522: "cucullis gynostegio sublongioribus, apice tridentatis"; the second from Bot. Mex. Bound. 160: "cucullis gynostegio globoso sessili brevioribus apice leviter tridentatis." And as for the stated discrepancy of relative length of anther-mass and hoods, and of the notch in the apex of the hoods, I have, in the material examined, observed all degrees of variation.

The different names of this species, with dates, are as follows:

Polyotus angustifolius Nutt., Trans. Am. Phil. Soc., Ser. 2, v. 201, (1837).

Acerates angustifolia Decaisne, DC. Prodr. VIII, 522, (1844).

Acerates auriculata Engelm. Bot. Mex. Bound. 160, (1859).

Asclepias stenophylla Gray, Proc. Am. Acad. XII, 72, (1876).

There is another species named *Asclepias angustifolia* Ell., Sk. 1, 325, (1821). So the specific name of Nuttall and Decaisne is not available. Engelmann's being the next oldest specific name, this species, it appears, should be named *Asclepias auriculata* (Engelm.).

Since writing the above note there has been found in a collection from Nebraska a plant that represents the *Acerates* side of this species, i. e., with the hoods destitute of horns, but the rudimentary crests present. This is an interesting find, as it makes the two forms practically co-extensive, at least in their northern range.—JOHN M. HOLZINGER, *Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

Bartram's Oak.—A long interval has elapsed since the Bartram oak was first made known and still its status has not been satisfactorily determined. Some contend that it is a hybrid. As the oak in question has been found at widely separated localities, although limited to a narrow

range extending from New York to North Carolina (and perhaps beyond this), one might suppose that this fact alone would be deemed sufficient to exclude the theory of hybridity in this case.

Within the last thirty years I have had the opportunity of observing it at different localities in Delaware and New Jersey and am now led to the conclusion that it is a variety of *Quercus imbricaria* Michx., of which we have here two forms, one with entire leaves, the other with lobed ones. On a single specimen, an oak growing in the Bartram Gardens on the banks of the Schuylkill at Philadelphia, Michaux founded his *Quercus heterophylla*. After describing it he remarks: "I was at first disposed to consider this tree as a variety of the laurel oak [meaning *Quercus imbricaria*] to which it bears the greatest affinity; but the leaves of that species are never indented, and not a stock of it exists within a hundred miles of Philadelphia." It is a tribute to the sagacity of this eminent botanist that, with only the lobe-leaved form before him, he had at that time so clearly discerned the affinity of this oak with *Quercus imbricaria*.

The evidence of this affinity may be seen when we compare (what is here taken to be) the entire-leaved form with the type and the lobe-leaved form of its variety. If further observation should confirm the conclusions here reached, and I believe that it will, it will then be proper to designate this oak by the name:

Quercus imbricaria Michx., var. *heterophylla* (Michx.).

a. ——— entire-leaved form.

b. ——— lobe-leaved form = *Quercus heterophylla* Michx.

In 1882 I found an oak in Salem Co., New Jersey, with entire leaves. Specimens from this tree were sent to Dr. Britton, who referred it to his *Quercus Rudkini* (Catalogue of New Jersey plants, p. 223). When first discovered I noticed some features characteristic of the Bartram oak to which I was inclined to refer it at the time. Later observations have now convinced me that it is the entire-leaved form of it mentioned above.

After some hesitation these views are presented in the belief that further investigation will confirm the conclusion here reached and decide a long pending question, the status of the Bartram oak.—A. COMMONS, *Wilmington, Del.*

The spines of *Cenchrus tribuloides* L.—It is a well known fact, at least to those who have carelessly handled the vile weed, that the wounds caused by the spines of the involucre of *Cenchrus tribuloides* are unusually painful and long continued. Personal experience in this regard led me to believe that there were some points about these spines that other spines did not possess and with a view to their